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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "03/03/1999 - Lecture To Focus On Writings Of Womens Rights Pioneer.pdf" (1999).
1999. 60.

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99-62

March 3, 1999

For Immediate Release:

LECTURE TO FOCUS ON WRITINGS OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS PIONEER

CHARLESTON -- The writings and essays of one of the world's earliest pioneers of women's rights have recently come to life with the publishing of "The Complete Works of Harriet Taylor Mill," edited by Jo Ellen Jacobs.

Jacobs will discuss this book at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, in Eastern Illinois University's Buzzard Hall Auditorium. Admission is free and open to the public.

"The Complete Works of Harriet Taylor Mill" is made up of letters and essays that Mill wrote throughout her lifetime. Many of the essays discuss her 19th-century ideas on women's issues such as domestic violence, suffrage and the decline of women's dependence on men.

Mill's writings have been mostly overlooked, overshadowed by the fame of her

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philosopher husband, John Stuart Mill. Together they wrote many books and articles for which she was never given credit.

In November of 1858, Harriet Taylor Mill died of tuberculosis. She was in the process of writing "The Subjection of Women" with her husband. The couple's daughter, Helen, helped finish the book.

In his autobiography, John Stuart Mill wrote of his wife and daughter, "Whoever, either now or hereafter, may think of me and my work I have done, must never forget that it is the product not of one intellect and conscience but of three..."